

Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation/
City Interdisciplinary Transportation Team Meeting
Thursday March 9, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Charles Langalis, Judy Fraser, James Michel, Carol Chaney

City Staff Present:

Wendy Block Sanford, Harry Reitze, Tim Geis

Agenda:

1. Development Update
2. N. Cherry Street NTC Petition
3. Pedestrian Plan
4. Other Items
5. February 8, 2006 meeting minutes approval

Minutes:

1. Development Update:

Wendy Block Sanford provided an update on current building projects and recent submittals to the planning office. The Read building special exception application has been approved. The planning department is expecting a resubmission on the N. Washington/Jefferson St special exception (Pearson funeral home site) and is reviewing a rezoning application for 110 Great Falls Street from residential to transitional designation. Jim Michel asked Wendy Block Sanford for clarification about the committee's role in the development update. She explained that the monthly update is a request from the CACT in order to be kept apprised of current and upcoming projects and that no action is required by the committee. However, she is happy to address any questions committee members may have.

2. North Cherry Street NTC citizen meeting

As part of the NTC process the the citizens on North Cherry Street presented the committee with their concerns about traffic on their street. The neighbors expressed concern about the continuing increase in volume of traffic, speeding, and aggressive driving. They noted that there are two school bus stops with as many as 30 children at one, access to Frady Park from Cherry, the Child Development Center, the sidewalks are narrow and obstructed at various points and that the street is a designated bicycle route. Difficulties include driveways being blocked by waiting traffic and incautious driving behavior at the two intersections and drivers rushing to make the light. Some neighbors noted the 4-way stop at Columbia is often ignored and one resident remarked that at times cars seem to rush through the street repeatedly. There was also concern that the proposed development and street light at Jefferson Street will mean more traffic on their street. They seemed to be in agreement that the worst times are rush hours and all day Saturday.

They also expressed concern that this was the third time they have come to a similar meeting to request the city's help on this matter. The committee thanked them for their time, outlined the next steps and confirmed that the residents will be kept informed as the committee proceeds with the NTC procedure.

3. Pedestrian Plan

The committee discussed the revised draft of the pedestrian plan. Charles Langalis expressed concern that the document is not a plan in the sense that it does not yet provide clear step-by-step actions to follow to improve pedestrian facilities and that much of what it contains is already in the Comprehensive Plan's transportation chapter. He suggested the plan should recommend that the City Council designate the city a "Pedestrian-Friendly City" and then should recommend, for example, a ward by ward method of making improvements. Judy Fraser noted the committee's earlier intention of including the facility scan from the original Pedestrian Plan draft as an addendum to this document. Carol Chaney asked for clarification of the purpose of the document. It was discussed that the committee has defined its purpose to be a policy proposal to support the Comprehensive Plan, a reference for development and a specific action plan for improvements. Jim Michel and Wendy Block Sanford were both of the opinion that the document is too lengthy. Jim Michel suggested that the initial sections could be reduced in number and size, but that the committee should first focus on the action portion of the plan and return to the summary and introductory sections afterwards. Committee members will concentrate on strengthening the section of action items before the next meeting. Charles Langalis will rework the physical improvement actions portion of the document. Carol Chaney and Jim Michel agreed to work on the public outreach action section and the city policy action section respectively. The committee agreed to review the body of the document after the action statements are further developed.

4. Other Items

Wendy Block Sanford updated the committee on the Citywide Parking Plan. The meetings were lightly attended and staff has received a variety of reaction, but overall the response has been primarily positive.

5. February 8, 2006 Meeting Minutes Approval

The CACT approved the February 8, 2006 meeting minutes.

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